

Report to: **Partnership Board –Transport for the South East**

Date of meeting: **21 March 2022**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Strategic Investment Plan**

Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the Strategic Investment Plan**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:**

- 1) Note the update on progress in the development of the Strategic Investment Plan.**

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**1. Overview**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Partnership Board on the progress in developing the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP will form the final part of the transport strategy, bringing together the outputs from the area studies and thematic studies, to become the blueprint for investment in the south east for the next 30 years.

**2. SIP Background**

2.1 The SIP will form the final part of the Transport Strategy and will set out a blueprint for investment in strategic transport infrastructure for the next 30 year. It will need to make a strong case for investment to the Treasury and the Department for Transport, but will need to be easily accessible to residents and communities across the region.

2.2 As agreed at Partnership Board meeting in July 2021, the Board delegated authority for the procurement process to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair. The procurement process commenced in September 2021, following the East Sussex County Council procurement rules and the brief was issued in the form of a request for quotation (RFQ). Following the completion of the RFQ process, a consortium of Steer and KPMG have been appointed to lead the work.

2.3 The final SIP will be brought to the Partnership Board for approval in March 2023, with submission to Government to follow soon after. A 12 week public consultation will run from June to September 2022.

**3. SIP Update**

3.1 The SIP will set a credible framework for delivering the vision and objectives of TfSE's Transport Strategy and the packages of interventions developed by TfSE's area and thematic studies.

3.2 The programme of interventions set out in the SIP will be wide-ranging in terms of modes, locations, and delivery models. There will likely be individual schemes that have net funding needs of varying sizes. The overall investment requirement is, however, likely to be very significant and will need to be delivered over a 30-year period.

3.3 As the final step of TfSE's plan to deliver its Transport Strategy, one of the key objectives of the SIP will be to provide the basis for securing local, regional, and national agreement to this significant investment programme, how it will be delivered and –crucially –how it will be paid for.

3.4 There will be a five-stage approach to developing the SIP (see Appendix 1):

- Stage A: Mobilisation;
- Stage B: SIP Background;
- Stage C: SIP Development;
- Stage D: Consultation; and
- Stage E: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (and close out).

3.5 Project mobilisation completed in January 2022 and work has recently concluded on Stage B, which involved undertaking a review of the technical work completed to date, the future development of TfSE and the wider context for the SIP. The supporting evidence from Stage B will be used to inform the development of the strategic narrative.

3.6 Work on Stage C is underway and will run until the draft SIP is presented to the Partnership Board in June 2022. The initial work has focused on the development of the strategic narrative that will make the case for investment in the South East. Engagement sessions have been held with the Senior Officer Group and the Partnership Board to help shape the emerging narrative and ensure that it accurately reflects the opportunities and challenges facing the region and presents the South East as a good place for private and public investment.

3.7 Work is also underway with KPMG to develop the funding and financing element of the SIP. This will consider various funding and financing tools, ensuring the SIP is not fully dependent upon public sector support. Initial work has commenced on developing the monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as shaping the look and feel of the draft document.

3.8 The draft SIP for consultation will be presented to the Board for sign off in June 2022.

#### **4. Engagement specialist and consultation preparation**

4.1 The SIP will be subject to a full 12-week public consultation. The consultation for the Transport Strategy attracted over 3,500 responses and it is anticipated that a similar level of response will be received for the SIP.

4.2 Given the importance of the consultation exercise, an engagement specialist has been brought in to oversee the development of a digital consultation platform and to lead the analysis of the results. This will help to ensure that the consultation

reaches the relevant audiences, meets best practice standards and will be supported by the TfSE team through face to face events and communications activities.

4.3 ECF (Engage, Consult, Facilitate) were appointed in January 2022 and will work closely with Steer and KPMG to develop the consultation approach and ensure they receive the results in a timely manner to enable the draft SIP to be updated for the Board meeting in November 2022.

4.3 The inception meeting for the work was held on 24 February 2022 to discuss the proposed approach to the development of the consultation.

4.4 The initial work will focus on stakeholder mapping, identifying key lines of enquiry, as well as developing the questions and tools to be utilised through the Engagement Hub (such as surveys, ideas boards, mapping tools). Key performance indicators to measure the success of the project will also be developed.

4.5 The ECF team will attend the Partnership Board meeting in June 2022 to present the consultation approach to the Board and obtain sign off as part of the approval of the draft SIP for consultation.

4.6 A launch event for the SIP has been planned for 5 July 2022 at G Live in Guildford. It is anticipated that the event will be attended by approximately 200 senior stakeholder representatives. Work is underway to develop a programme for the day and an invitation to speak has been accepted by Baroness Vere. Board members are asked to save the date in diaries and further details will follow in due course. The launch event will be supported by a range of other engagement events, details of which are being confirmed and an engagement plan will be presented to the Partnership Board in June 2022.

## **5. Budget implications**

5.1 The contract value for the SIP is £150,000. This budget has been allocated from the DfT 2021/22 grant. It is anticipated that additional budget to finalise the SIP, including the design and publication of the final version and to deliver an effective consultation process, will need to be allocated in the 2022/23 budget. This will be presented to the Board for consideration as part of the budget setting process.

5.2 It is anticipated that the contract value for the engagement specialist will be between £25,000-£30,000. This is higher than anticipated as the scope of the work has expanded to cover a broader consultation exercise and the level of response that is expected. The additional funding for this will be met through underspend in the communications and engagement budget.

## **6. Conclusions and Recommendations**

6.1 The Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress to date.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

**Lead Officer**

**Transport for the South East**

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# SIP Timeline

Present final SIP  
to Government in  
March 2023

